

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

A fire broke out on Tuesday afternoon at about half past five o'clock, in a one story wooden building in Charlestown, on Main street, situated between the Toll-House and the Middlesex Hotel. In less than half an hour after the fire commenced, the large brick building known as the Middlesex Hotel was on fire, and was soon totally consumed. The flames crossed the street, and communicated to sundry wooden buildings in that quarter—from whence it rapidly extended along Main street towards the square, and down Water street towards the Navy Yard, carrying destruction with it until it was stopped by the creek and draw bridge. On the Square a number of valuable buildings were destroyed, including Walkers Hotel, nor did it stop its ravages until it reached the corner of Salem Turnpike—and here at 9 o'clock, its devastating progress, by the praiseworthy exertions of the Firemen, was at length stayed. The street here was extremely narrow and at one time serious apprehensions were entertained that the fire would cross to the opposite side, and most of the occupants of dwellings removed their families and furniture. The stone building occupied by the Bunker Hill Bank and the Charlestown Reading room, is the only building standing between the termination of Charlestown Bridge and the entrance of Salem Turnpike on that side of the street. This edifice is still standing, although considerably injured.

The number of buildings of various kinds destroyed, is estimated at about 75, including two large Hotels, many valuable stores and private dwelling houses, and a large distillery. By this severe visitation of Providence many poor families have been driven from their homes and stripped of the little property which they once possessed.